DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 342 888 CE 060 381

TITLE United Nations Resolutions. Resolution on Prison Education. Resolution on Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners. Resolution on Criminal Justice Education.

INSTITUTION United Nations, New York, N.Y.

PUB DATE 91

NOTE 11p.

PUB TYPE Viewpoints (Opinion/Position Papers, Essays, etc.) (120)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS Adult Education; *Civil Rights; *Correctional Education; *Criminal Law; Discipline; *Foreign Policy; Human Dignity; International Organizations; Job Training; *Prisoners; Public Agencies

IDENTIFIERS *United Nations

ABSTRACT

This document contains three United Nations resolutions that emphasize the role and practice of prison education. The three resolutions were adopted in 1990: (1) the Economic and Social Council Resolution 1990/20 on prison education; (2) the General Assembly Resolution 45/111 on basic principles for the treatment of prisoners; and (3) General Assembly Resolution 45/122 on criminal justice education. The first resolution affirms the right of everyone to education and recommends that member states promote prison education in the following ways: raising the educational level of prison personnel; focusing on resocialization, literacy, and vocational training; and developing policies that aim at developing the whole person. The second resolution sets out 11 principles for treatment of prisoners, including the following: respecting them as human beings, avoiding discrimination, respecting religious and cultural beliefs, and providing access to employment training and health services. The third resolution encourages the development of criminal justice education, research, and publications. It advocates increased use of education in crime prevention and collaboration between criminal justice and educational agencies. Activities for the Secretary-General are also outlined. (NLA)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED342888

United Nations Resolutions

Resolution on Prison Education

Resolution on Basic Principles
for the Treatment of Prisoners

Resolution on Criminal Justice
Education

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION
CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

A. J. Cosman

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

CE060381

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1990/20. Prison education

The Economic and Social Council,

Affirming the right of everyone to education, as enshrined in article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[31] and in articles 13 to 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[32]

Recalling rule 77 of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners,[33] which states, *inter alia,* that provision shall be made for the further education of all prisoners capable of profiting thereby, that the education of illiterates and young prisoners shall be compulsory and that the education of prisoners shall be integrated with the educational system of the country so far as practicable,

Recalling also rule 22.1 of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules),[34] which states that professional education, in-service training, refresher courses and other appropriate modes of instruction shall be utilized to establish and maintain the necessary professional competence of all personnel dealing with juvenile cases, and rule 26, which stresses the role of education and vocational training for all juveniles in custody,

Bearing in mind the long-standing concern of the United Nations about the humanization of criminal justice and the protection of human rights and about the importance of education in the development of the individual and the community,

Bearing in mind also that human dignity is an inherent, inviolable quality of every human being and a precondition for education aiming at the development of the whole person,

Bearing in mind further that 1990, the year in which the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders is to be held, is also International Literacy Year,[35] the objectives of which are directly relevant to the individual needs of prisoners,

Noting with appreciation the significant efforts made by the United Nations, in preparing for the Eighth Congress, to give more recognition to prison education,[36]

1. *Recommends* that Member States, appropriate institutions, educational counselling services and other organizations should promote prison education, *inter alia,* by:

(*a*) Providing penal institutions with educators and accompanying services and raising the educational level of prison personnel;

(*b*) Developing professional selection procedures and staff training and supplying the necessary resources and equipment;

(*c*) Encouraging the provision and expansion of educational programmes for offenders in and outside prisons;

(*d*) Developing education suitable to the needs and abilities of prisoners and in conformity with the demands of society;

2. *Also recommends* that Member States should:

(*a*) Provide various types of education that would contribute significantly to crime prevention, resocialization of prisoners and reduction of recidivism, such as literacy education, vocational training, continuing education for updating knowledge, higher education and other programmes that promote the human development of prisoners;

(*b*) Consider the increased use of alternatives to imprisonment and measures for the social resettlement of prisoners with a view to facilitating their education and reintegration into society;

3. *Further recommends* that Member States, in developing educational policies, should take into account the following principles:

(*a*) Education in prison should aim at developing the whole person, bearing in mind the prisoner's social, economic and cultural background;

(*b*) All prisoners should have access to education, including literacy programmes, basic education, vocational training, creative, religious and cultural activities, physical education and sports, social education, higher education and library facilities;

(*c*) Every effort should be made to encourage prisoners to participate actively in all aspects of education;

(*d*) All those involved in prison administration and management should facilitate and support education as much as possible;

(*e*) Education should be an essential element in the prison régime; disincentives to prisoners who participate in approved formal educational programmes should be avoided;

(*f*) Vocational education should aim at the greater development of the individual and be sensitive to trends in the labour market;

(*g*) Creative and cultural activities should be given a significant role since they have a special potential for enabling prisoners to develop and express themselves;

(*h*) Wherever possible, prisoners should be allowed to participate in education outside the prison;

(*i*) Where education has to take place within the prison, the outside community should be involved as fully as possible;

(*j*) The necessary funds, equipment and teaching staff should be made available to enable prisoners to receive appropriate education;

[31] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[32] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[33] See *Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XIV.1), sect. G.

[34] General Assembly resolution 40/33, annex.

[35] See General Assembly resolution 42/104.

[36] See A/CONF.144/IPM.4 and 5 and Corr.1 and A/CONF.144/RPM.1 and Corr.1, 3 and Corr.1 and 2, 4 and Corr.1 and 5 and Corr.1.

4. *Urges* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its International Bureau of Education, in co-operation with the regional commissions, the regional and interregional institutes for crime prevention and criminal justice, other specialized agencies and other entities within the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations concerned and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, to become actively involved in this process;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funds:

(*a*) To develop a set of guidelines and a manual on prison education that would provide the basis necessary for the further development of prison education and would facilitate the exchange of expertise and experience on this aspect of penitentiary practice among Member States;

(*b*) To convene an international expert meeting on prison education, with a view to formulating action-oriented strategies in this area, with the co-operation of the regional and interregional institutes for crime prevention and criminal justice, the specialized agencies, other intergovernmental organizations concerned and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to inform the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, at its twelfth session, of the results of his endeavours in this area;

7. *Invites* the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, at its twelfth session, to consider the question of prison education.

13th plenary meeting
24 May 1990

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/45/111
28 March 1991

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 100

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/45/756)]

45/111. Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the long-standing concern of the United Nations for the humanization of criminal justice and the protection of human rights,

Bearing in mind also that sound policies of crime prevention and control are essential to viable planning for economic and social development,

Recognizing that the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, 1/ adopted by the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, are of great value and influence in the development of penal policy and practice,

Considering the concern of previous United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, regarding the obstacles of various kinds that prevent the full implementation of the Standard Minimum Rules,

Believing that the full implementation of the Standard Minimum Rules would be facilitated by the articulation of the basic principles underlying them,

Recalling resolution 10 on the status of prisoners and resolution 17 on the

---

1/ See Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XIV.1), sect. G.

human rights of prisoners, adopted by the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, 2/

Recalling also the statement submitted at the tenth session of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control by Caritas Internationalis, the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, the International Association of Educators for World Peace, the International Council for Adult Education, the International Federation of Human Rights, the International Prisoners' Aid Association, the International Union of Students, the World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations and the World Council of Indigenous Peoples, 3/ which are non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II,

Recalling further the relevant recommendations contained in the report of the Interregional Preparatory Meeting for the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders on topic II, "Criminal justice policies in relation to problems of imprisonment, other penal sanctions and alternative measures", 4/

Aware that the Eighth Congress coincided with International Literacy Year, proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/104 of 7 December 1987,

Desiring to reflect the perspective noted by the Seventh Congress, namely, that the function of the criminal justice system is to contribute to safeguarding the basic values and norms of society,

Recognizing the usefulness of drafting a declaration on the human rights of prisoners,

Affirms the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners, contained in the annex to the present resolution, and requests the Secretary-General to bring it to the attention of Member States.

68th plenary meeting
14 December 1990

ANNEX

Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners

1. All prisoners shall be treated with the respect due to their inherent dignity and value as human beings.

2/ See Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Milan, 26 August-6 September 1985: report prepared by the Secretariat (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.1), chap. I, sect. E.

3/ See E/AC.57/1988/NGO/3.

4/ A/CONF.144/IPM.4.

2. There shall be no discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

3. It is, however, desirable to respect the religious beliefs and cultural precepts of the group to which prisoners belong, whenever local conditions so require.

4. The responsibility of prisons for the custody of prisoners and for the protection of society against crime shall be discharged in keeping with a State's other social objectives and its fundamental responsibilities for promoting the well-being and development of all members of society.

5. Except for those limitations that are demonstrably necessitated by the fact of incarceration, all prisoners shall retain the human rights and fundamental freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 5/ and, where the State concerned is a party, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 6/ and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto, 6/ as well as such other rights as are set out in other United Nations covenants.

6. All prisoners shall have the right to take part in cultural activities and education aimed at the full development of the human personality.

7. Efforts addressed to the abolition of solitary confinement as a punishment, or to the restriction of its use, should be undertaken and encouraged.

8. Conditions shall be created enabling prisoners to undertake meaningful remunerated employment which will facilitate their reintegration into the country's labour market and permit them to contribute to their own financial support and to that of their families.

9. Prisoners shall have access to the health services available in the country without discrimination on the grounds of their legal situation.

10. With the participation and help of the community and social institution, and with due regard to the interests of victims, favourable conditions shall be created for the reintegration of the ex-prisoner into society under the best possible conditions.

11. The above Principles shall be applied impartially.

5/ Resolution 217 A (III).

6/ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/45/122
3 April 1991

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 100

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/45/756)]

45/122. Criminal justice education

The General Assembly,

Aware that one of the main objectives of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice is the continued promotion of a more effective administration of justice, the strengthening of international co-operation in the fight against transnational crime, the observance of human rights and the pursuance of the highest standards of fairness, efficiency, humanity and professional conduct,

Recalling in this context its resolution 44/72 of 8 December 1989 in which it expressed the hope that the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders would make a major contribution to the solution of problems related to crime prevention and criminal justice,

Noting the views expressed at previous congresses concerning the need for collaboration between criminal justice agencies and educational authorities in the development of crime prevention programmes,

Recognizing that existing approaches to crime prevention and control have not always proved effective,

Calling attention to its resolution 42/104 of 7 December 1987, by which it proclaimed the year 1990 as International Literacy Year, the aim of which is the eradication of illiteracy in the world, and its resolution 44/127 of 15 December 1989,

Bearing in mind its resolution 44/61 of 8 December 1989 on the development of public information activities in the field of human rights,

Convinced that the development of public information activities in the field of criminal justice should include the creation and implementation of mechanisms to enable Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and professional criminal justice associations to be familiar with ongoing criminal justice and crime prevention activities in the work of the United Nations,

Mindful that the Eighth Congress, in its resolution 5 of 5 September 1990 on the consolidation of the role of national correspondents in the crime prevention and criminal justice field, resolution 14 of 6 September 1990 on social aspects of crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of development, resolution 19 of 7 September 1990 on management of criminal justice and development of sentencing policies, and resolution 4 of 5 September 1990 on international co-operation and mutual assistance through training programmes and exchange of expertise, 1/ as well as in its resolution on the computerization of criminal justice, recommended to the General Assembly for adoption, 2/ made several recommendations for strengthening education activities in the criminal justice field, which included better dissemination of information on those activities among interested Member States and other parties,

Mindful also that education has a potential role to play in ameliorating the conditions that give rise to crime and to the consequences of criminality,

Determined that education should play an important role in crime prevention and criminal justice through such means as education for the general awareness of the public, education of the young for crime prevention, education aimed at the total personal development of prisoners and other offenders and continuing education of the criminal justice personnel,

Aware that comprehensive approaches are required for a lasting and systemic impact on criminal justice education with a view to attaining higher standards of fairness, efficiency and professional conduct of criminal justice personnel,

1. Endorses the initiatives made by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in the above-mentioned resolutions, which aim at strengthening national and international efforts in criminal justice education, including the enhancement of the role of criminal justice education in the activities of Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and national correspondents in the field of crime prevention and control;

2. Invites Member States to review existing education practices in respect of both offenders and personnel in crime prevention and criminal justice;

3. Also invites Member States to involve educational experts, as appropriate, in crime prevention and criminal justice and to encourage related educational research and publications;

1/ See A/CONF.144/28, chap. I, sect. B.

2/ See resolution 45/109.

4. Further invites Member States to advise criminal justice staff periodically through their professional associations, journals or other publications and records, on United Nations developments relevant to their area of work;

5. Invites all Member States to include in their educational curricula materials relevant to a comprehensive understanding of criminal justice and crime prevention issues, and encourages all those responsible for criminal law and criminal justice reforms, training in law and its enforcement, the armed forces, medicine, diplomacy and other relevant fields to include appropriate criminal justice and crime prevention components in their programmes;

6. Also invites Member States to encourage collaboration between criminal justice agencies and educational authorities in the development of crime prevention programmes and to encourage educational authorities to give increased attention to ethical and socialization programmes in their curricula and to other relevant measures referred to in the inventory of comprehensive crime prevention measures submitted to the Eighth Congress; 3/

7. Requests the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of increased use of education in crime prevention and criminal justice with a view to preparing a study on the relationship between crime, education and development and of presenting the first results in a progress report to be submitted to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control at its twelfth session;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General, through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat in co-operation with other offices and national correspondents in the field of crime prevention and control, to continue to develop and maintain a list of criminal justice journals and relevant public media programmes, with a view to the dissemination of information on United Nations activities in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice for educational purposes;

9. Further requests the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of relevant national criminal justice and educational authorities the United Nations standards, norms and other selected recommendations with a view to ensuring their more widespread and systematic dissemination in relevant training and educational programmes;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to develop technical co-operation programmes, including interregional advisory services, with a view to enhancing the role of education in the operation of crime prevention and criminal justice, taking into account the interdisciplinary nature of such co-operation programmes;

11. Recommends that the Secretary-General should establish, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary funds, electronic data bases within the United

---

3/ See A/CONF.144/9.

Nations Criminal Justice Information Network, which should include information on the network of national correspondents in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and information on educational and training programmes in the criminal justice field, with a view to disseminating information to the international criminal justice community more effectively;

12. Invites the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute substantively, logistically and financially to the development of educational programmes within the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme and to the establishing of the above-mentioned data bases;

13. Urges the United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders to include educational issues in their research and training programmes;

14. Requests the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, as the preparatory body for the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to keep the matter under review;

15. Recommends that the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control and preparatory meetings to the Ninth Congress further consider the role of education with a view to facilitating educational approaches in crime prevention and criminal justice.

68th plenary meeting
14 December 1990